



Sudan Timeline

Political unrest history

- 1956** Sudan becomes independent from British/ Egyptian rule
- 1958 – 1971** Unrest in the country, October Revolution and May Revolution military coups take place
- 1972** Addis Ababa Peace Agreement: South to become a self governing region
- 1978** Oil discovered in Bentiu in Southern Sudan
- 1983** Civil war in the South between the Government and Garang led Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)

President Numeiri declares Sharia law (Islamic Law) which pits the Christian/animists in the South against the Muslims in the North
- 1985** Widespread unrest, Numeiri deposed, Transitional Military Council rules Sudan
- 1986** General elections, Coalition government set up: Sadiq al-Mahdi becomes Prime Minister
- 1988** Democratic Unionist Party/Coalition draft cease-fire agreement with SPLM; cease-fire not implemented
- 1989** Military coup: National Salvation Revolution in power

Al-Bashir becomes president

- 1993** Omar al-Bashir appointed President, Revolution Command Council dissolved
- 1995** Sudan accused of masterminding assassination attempt on Egyptian President Mubark
- 1998** Pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum – allegedly manufacturing chemical weapons - attacked by US missiles
- 1998** Referendum for new constitution endorsed by over 96% voters
- 1999** Power struggle between President al-Bashir and Speaker of the House, Islamic leader Hassan al-Turabi, National Assembly dissolved, state of emergency declared

Advent of oil

- 1999** Sudan begins to export oil
- 2000** President al-Bashir meets National Democratic Alliance in Eritrea

Elections: Main opposition parties boycott, al-Bashir is re-elected for another five years

2001 Memorandum of Understanding signed by al-Turabi's party, the Popular National Congress, rebel group of SPLM, Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Government arrests several opposing political leaders including al-Turabi

Nairobi: Peace talks fail between al-Bashir and SPLM leader Garang

Initiatives: Government accepts offer of Egypt/Libya to end civil war

Unilateral sanctions extended: U.S. cite terrorism and rights violations

North/South Peace deal

2002 Nuba Mountains (key rebel stronghold): al-Bashir and SPLA sign landmark ceasefire agreement, providing a 6-month renewable ceasefire

8-year peace process ended: deal to end conflict in South Sudan

Kenya: Breakthrough agreement between the Government and Southern Rebels to end 19-year civil war.

Machakos Protocol: South to seek self-determination after 6 years

Darfur Conflict starts

2003 Feb Western Darfur: Rebels rise against Government; cite neglect of region by Khartoum

2003 Oct PNC leader Turabi released from detention after 3 years, ban on PNC lifted

2004 Jan Western Darfur: army quells rebel uprising; hundreds of thousands of refugees flee to neighbouring Chad

Darfur conflict kills tens of thousands, displaces millions

2004 Mar UN official says government sponsored Arab "Janjaweed" militias carrying out systematic killings of African villagers in Darfur

Detentions: Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi, army officers and opposition politicians detained over alleged coup plot

2004 May Breakthrough: division of oil and non-oil resources between North and South

Power sharing: Government and southern rebels agree on power sharing

2004 Sept Intervention to stop genocide

Sudan fails to meet targets for disarming Janjaweed militias; UN forces intervene to protect civilians

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell describes Darfur killings as genocide

Comprehensive Peace agreement (CPA)

2005 Jan Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) (also known as the Naivasha Agreement) signed between Khartoum Government and Southern rebels; this ends two decades of civil war, instates a permanent ceasefire & wealth- and power-sharing agreement, and calls for the border between the North and the semi-autonomous South to be demarcated

Garang's term in government cut short

Systematic abuses in Darfur: UN report accuses the government, stops short of calling the violence genocide

Sanctions and War Crimes

- 2005 Mar** UN Security Council authorises sanctions against ceasefire violators in Darfur; Council votes those accused of war crimes in Darfur to be referred to the ICC
- 2005 June** Reconciliation Deal: Government and exiled opposition National Democratic Alliance (NDA) sign reconciliation into power-sharing administration
 - Detainee Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi released

Southern autonomy

- 2005 July** Garang sworn in as first Vice President: constitution gives South a degree of autonomy is signed
- 2005 Aug** Garang killed in plane crash after visiting Ugandan ally Museveni.
 - Salva Kiir succeeds Garang as First Vice President of Sudan and President of Southern Sudan
 - Widespread clashes between northern Arabs and southern Sudanese
- 2005 Sept** Power-sharing government formed in Khartoum
- 2005 Oct** Autonomous government formed in the South in accordance with January 2005 peace deal. Administration dominated by former rebels

Darfur Peace Agreement

- 2006 May** Peace Accord signed between Khartoum government, main rebel faction in Darfur and the Sudan Liberation Movement. Smaller rebels groups left out and reject accord. Fighting continues
- 2006 Aug** U.N. Security Council adopts a resolution authorising up to 22,500 troops and police to replace the cash-strapped and ill-equipped AU troops
 - UN peacekeeping force in Darfur rejected by Khartoum; Sudan says its sovereignty compromised

African Union struggles to contain escalating Darfur violence

- 2006 Oct** UN top official expelled: Jan Pronk leaves Sudan
- 2006 Nov** Peacekeeping Mandate: African Union extends AU peacekeeping force's mandate in Darfur by six months
 - Heavy fighting erupts around southern town of Malakal, between the north Sudanese forces and former rebel foes in the south; hundreds thought to have died
- 2007 Apr** UN troop deployment to reinforce AU peacekeepers in Darfur
 - Sudan accepts a partial UN troop deployment, but not 20,000 strong

War crimes charges

- 2007 May** International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants: for State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun and the Janjaweed militia leader known as Ali Kosheib (a pseudonym for Ali Mohammed Ali) both suspected of war crimes in Darfur
- Fresh sanctions: U.S. issues fresh sanctions against Sudan
- 2007 July** UNAMID: UN Security Council approves a resolution authorising a 26,000 hybrid force for Darfur (United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur); Sudan agrees to co-operate with UNAMID
- 2007 Oct** SPLM accused Khartoum of failing to honour the 2005 peace deal and temporarily suspends participation in Government of National Unity
- 2007 Dec** SPLM resumes participation in Government of National Unity
- 2008 Jan** UN takes over Darfur peace force
- Sudan opens fire on UNAMID convoy: Sudan apologises
- Bombing in West Darfur: Government planes bomb rebel positions; areas become no-go zones for aid workers
- 2008 Feb** UNAMID underpowered: Commander of the UN-African Union peacekeepers in Darfur, Balla Keita, says more troops needed urgently in west Darfur
- Clashes break out in Abyei – oil rich town in the South: key sticking point of 2005 peace accord
- 2008 Mar** Urgently need helicopters to patrol: Russia prepared to provide some helicopters to UN-African Union peacekeepers
- Rising tensions: clashes break out between Arab militia and SPLM in Abyei on north/south divide
- Sudan/Chad peace accord: halts 5 years of hostilities between Sudan and Chad

Controversial 2008 Census and Sudan's political future

- 2008 Apr** National census counting: a vital step towards holding democratic elections after 2005 north/south peace deal
- Rising death toll: UN humanitarian chief John Holmes says 300,000 people may have died in the five-year Darfur conflict
- 2008 May** Plane crash: Southern defence minister Dominic Dim Deng killed in a plane crash in the south
- JEM raids around Khartoum, in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city; first time that fighting from Western Sudan has reached the capital. 200 people died in the fighting

Sudan/Chad tensions

- Sudan breaks off diplomatic relations with Chad and accuses Chad of involvement in the rebel raid
- Abyei: intense fighting breaks out between north/south forces over disputed oil rich Abyei
- 2008 June** Arbitration over Abyei: al-Bashir and Salva Kiir agree to international arbitration to resolve dispute over Abyei

2008 July Calls for arrest of President al-Bashir for crimes against humanity. ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo presents evidence showing al-Bashir committed the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur. Appeal first ever request to the ICC for the arrest of a sitting head of state. Sudan rejects the indictment

Census

2008 Sept Census Results to be announced; Southerners reserve the right not to be bound by the results: Count will help determine distribution of wealth and power, set constituencies for the first time since 23 years of strife, due in 2009. Questions of ethnicity and religion were not inserted into the census questionnaire. Western Darfur region also reject the census owing to distrust of the government

Millions of southerners displaced by the war have not returned to their homes in the South

Peace Talks

2008 Oct JEM refuses to participate in Qatari peace talks

The SLM and SNLM merge forces. SLM and JEM agree to strengthen relations

Fears of an arms race between North and former rebels in South build following allegations that Ukrainian tanks hijacked off the coast of Somalia were bound for southern Sudan

2008 Nov al-Bashir announces immediate ceasefire in Darfur and announces a campaign to disarm militias

Rebels play down al-Bashir's declaration of ceasefire in Darfur, saying they will fight on until the government agrees to share power and wealth in the region

Government forces continue attacks in the Darfur area to the disappointment of the UN

ICC calls for arrest of three rebel commanders

2008 Dec JEM holds talks with Qataris over peace process.

SLM announces rejection of the Qatari negotiations

Sudanese army claims a Darfur rebel group plans to attack the sensitive oil-rich South Kordofan state and the Sudanese army send troops into Darfur

2009 Jan Hassan al-Turabi arrested after declaring President al-Bashir should hand himself in to The Hague to face war crimes charges for the Darfur war

2009 Feb Sudan and JEM begin first round of peace talks in Qatar but without the SLM

Sudanese government and JEM sign a declaration of goodwill, in Qatar, expressing their willingness to engage in peace process

Arrest Warrants against al-Bashir

2009 March ICC issues arrest warrant against President al-Bashir on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur

Mass expulsion of 13 aid agencies from Darfur

2009 May Estimated 250 people in central Sudan killed during a week of clashes between nomadic groups fighting over grazing land and cattle in the semi-arid region of Southern Kordofan

Alliance strained

- 2009 June** Khartoum government denies it is supplying arms to ethnic groups in the south to destabilise the region
- Salva Kiir, warns his forces are being re-organised to be ready for any return to war with the north
- Ex-foreign minister Lam Akol splits from South's ruling SPLM to form new party, SPLM-Democratic Change
- 2009 July** North and South Sudan say they accept ruling by arbitration court in The Hague shrinking disputed Abyei region and placing the major Heglig oil field in the north
- A female journalist is tried and punished for breaching decency laws by wearing trousers. She campaigns to change the law

UN declares end of Darfur War

- 2009 Aug** UN military commander declares the war in Darfur to be over; activists condemn the comment
- 2009 Oct** SPLM boycotts parliament over a Bill allowing intelligence services to retain widespread powers
- 2009 Dec** Deal reached between leaders of North and South, on the terms of a referendum on independence due in South by 2011
- 2010 Jan** al-Bashir says he will accept referendum result, even if South opts for independence
- 2010 Feb** Judges of ICC are ordered to review their decision to omit genocide from the war crimes arrest warrant issued for al-Bashir
- Sudan and Chad agree to a full normalisation of relation and to deploy a joint force on their border to end the presence of rebels on each other's territory and halt their activities; the signing of this accord raises hopes of an end to the conflict in Darfur
- 2010 Feb-March** JEM signs peace accord with government, prompting President al-Bashir to declare the Darfur war over; but failure to agree to specifics and continuing clashes with smaller rebel groups endanger the deal

Election

- 2010 April** Sudan's first multiparty nationwide election held in 24 years, since 1986
- al-Bashir gains new term as president of Sudan; re-instates Salva Kiir as First Vice President of Sudan and President of Southern Sudan
- Chad-Sudan border reopens after seven years
- 2010 May** JEM announces it is freezing its participation in peace talks; in protest against the involvement of other insurgents in negotiations. It accuses the government of breaking an earlier ceasefire.
- 2010 June** Darfur sees bloodiest month in two years, according to UN

Second arrest warrant

- 2010 July** ICC issues second arrest warrant for President al-Bashir; on charges of genocide

2010 July & Aug al-Bashir visits Chad (July) and Kenya (August) despite ICC arrest warrants; neither neighbouring country arrests al-Bashir despite being full members of the ICC. Both countries receive heavy criticism from the international community, while the AU has told its members to not cooperate with the ICC ruling

2010 Aug Tensions rise in Kalma camp, the largest internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in South Darfur. Protests by some residents - some against the Doha talks, others in support - leads to deadly violence. Of the 82,000 IDPS in the camp before the protests, between 50,000 to 60,000 camp inhabitants remain

As a result of the violence, Sudanese authorities cut off aid to the camp for fifteen days

SPLA launches "Child Protection Department" intended to demobilise all children in military ranks and end the use of child soldiers across Southern Sudan by the end of 2010; as per an agreement signed with the UN in November 2009

UNAMID says that at least 21 international aid workers have been kidnapped in Darfur since 2009

2010 Sept UN Security Council Calls on all sides to ensure that the 2011 referendum is peaceful

Floods in south Sudan force more than 50,000 people from their homes

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